



# The Coalminer

J.B. Watkins PTA  
Newsletter

June 7, 2011

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## President's Message

Dear J.B. Watkins Parents,

My two years as PTA President at Watkins are now almost up, and I want to thank everyone for their help and support. Our PTA has faced many challenges over the past two years, including the death of a student, the death of a former custodian, two fires that affected three Watkins families, the downturn in the economy and more. Despite these challenges, our PTA has accomplished many things, has raised a lot of money for our school, and has brought a lot of wonderful programs and events to Watkins and to our children. I am very proud of all that our PTA has done, and continues to do for our school.

This spring the PTA has been busy at Watkins. In March we helped sponsor the Science and Engineering Fair, spring WEP finished, and FIT kids started. In April, we had the Family Fun Run, and in May we had the Talent Show, the PTA provided a Staff Appreciation week, and we had our 3rd annual Carnival. In addition to those events, this spring we also had a Spirit Wear sale, Chess Club meetings, McDonald and Chick-fil-A nights, a Candela's night, a Monkey Joe's night, and an Adopt-A-Spot clean up day.

Final numbers are still being tallied, but it looks like our Carnival raised about \$3,000- \$4,000 and the majority of that money will go towards supporting our PTA programs and buying supplies and items that are on our school and teacher wish lists. Thank you to everyone that supported our Carnival in any way.

As this school year ends, I want to thank our two out-going PTA Executive Board members Karen Ladnier, who has been our Vice President for the past two years, and Beth Marshall, who has been our Secretary this year. Thank you to Karen and Beth for all that they have done to support our PTA and our school. I also want to welcome our new PTA Executive Board for the 2010-2011 school year: Niki Mason, PTA President, Stephanie Gonzalez, Vice President, Colleen Kopidis, Treasurer (who will be our treasurer for a second year), and Dawn Owen, Secretary. Thank you Niki, Colleen and Dawn for your willingness to help serve our PTA. Please join me in welcoming Niki, Colleen and Dawn to our Executive Board, and please give them as much support as you can next year.

I have enjoyed supporting the Watkins PTA as President for these past two years. As always, thank you very much to all of our volunteers and to everyone that supports our PTA and our school. We are very proud of all that our PTA has been able to do for our school and for our children this year, and we are looking forward to the next school year.

Enjoy the summer and I will see you around Watkins!

Sincerely,

Angela Castillo  
J.B. Watkins Elementary PTA President, 2009-2011



## 2010-2011 PTA Board Members

**President:** Angela Castillo  
angelamcastillo@verizon.net  
897-6939

**Vice President:** Karen Ladnier  
ladnierk@yahoo.com  
319-0445

**Treasurer:** Colleen Kopidis  
cnkopidis@mac.com  
594-3607

**Secretary:** Beth Marshall  
bmarshall@mcvh-vcu.edu

## We are all Stars Tonight!!

Our annual Talent Show was held on Friday, May 13th in the Watkins Cafeteria. This year's theme, "Stars Tonight", was inspired by what will hopefully be a new tradition: a show finale. At the end of the show, all participants were invited back on stage to perform a final act together- Lady Antebellum's Stars Tonight!

We had 200+ in attendance, over 31 different acts. I am very proud of our students who sang, danced, acted, cheered and just plain ROCKED the night!

This night could not have happened without the students and their parents, and some very special volunteers!

A very big thank you to the following individuals.....I could NOT have done this without YOU!

- Kriston Feldpausch and Steve Raybould for coordinating our sound and lighting
- Dana Trapanese for being our AWESOME Master of Ceremonies
- Becky Rogers for providing assistance and guidance in coordinating the event
- Tami Sober and Deb Dudley for helping to get the students lined up and on stage
- Jay and Jake Cohen for running the curtains and setting up the mats backstage

Thanks, and hope to see you next year!!

Barbara Cohen

## McDonald's and Candela's Fundraisers

The PTA sponsored our first Candela's night on May 15 and the turnout was GREAT! We raised \$ 251.78 and next year, Candela's will donate 20% to our school. So mark your calendars for the 1st Monday of every month (except September), from 5pm-9pm for the J.B. Watkins Candela's night!!

We had our last McDonald's night on May 12—the bike winner was Angela from Mrs. Waskey's 3rd grade class!!

Thanks for all of your support throughout the year!

Brittany Krebs

McDonald's/Chik-fil-A/Candela's Nights

## The Watkins PTA Needs You!!!!



The following committees need chairs for next year:

- ◆ Cultural Arts/Reflections
- ◆ Bulletin Board
- ◆ Lunch Buddies
- ◆ Newsletter
- ◆ Volunteers
- ◆ Ways and Means

Please consider serving on one (or more) of these committees for the 2011-12 school year. The PTA is run strictly by volunteers to provide our school and our children with additional funds and resources to improve the educational experience.

If interested, please email any board member for more information!!

## Green Team News

As we come to the end of our third year of "Watkins Goes Green" it is so exciting to see that so many of our students are embracing the importance of being good to the environment. Thanks to all of you who helped to make them so successful. If we all make little changes in our everyday lives, we can truly make a big difference. This year your Green Team participated in the following areas:

- **Science Fair** - the DEQ came out and helped us learn about pH levels in our water and the CVWMA came and brought R3 the recycling mascot to share the do's and don'ts of recycling
- **Carnival** - 5 portable recycling bins were purchased by our green team and used to collect bottles and cans
- **Litterwise** - The county Litterwise trailer came out on April 12 and taught our students easy ways they can help the environment
- **Class Parties** - Again this year, Red Robin restaurant donated 550 reusable cups that were used during class parties throughout the year for 2nd - 5th grades
- **Adopt-A-Spot** - Two school clean-ups were held this year where students and parents come out to help keep our school grounds looking good
- **Phone Book Recycling Drive** - Collected 700 phone books and recycled them through SP Recycling

You also helped our school to collect and recycle the following items:

- **Glue sticks/glue bottles** - recycled by Terracycle and Elmer's Glue
- **Bottle caps** - recycled by Arvada
- **Card fronts** - upcycled by St. Jude's ranch for Children
- **Drink pouches** - upcycled by Terracycle
- **Broken crayons** - sent to Crazy Crayons to be made into new crayons
- **Single-stream recycling** ~ 400 lbs of recycling was put in our school's recycling bin each week this year by our students and custodians!



In addition to all our recycling, many thanks go out to our Watkins Student Green Team who helped to recycle for our resource teachers and read our Tuesday Green Tips on the announcements. They also helped make our Earth Week activities very successful!

### Student Green Team Members:

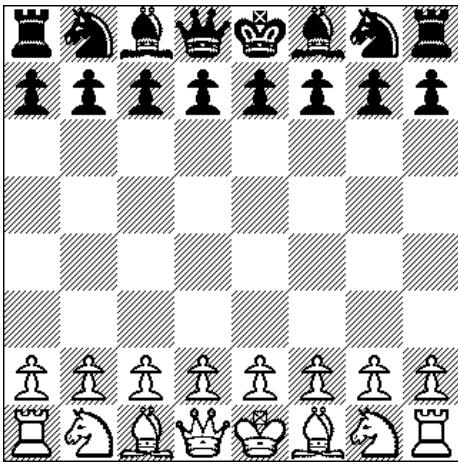
<u>Mrs. Inge's Class</u>	<u>Mrs. Guyer's Class</u>	<u>Mrs. Losego's Class</u>	<u>Mrs. Couillard's Class</u>	<u>Mrs. Davies' Class</u>
Ayah Kuwaifi	Skylar Mallon	Bruce Parker	Taylor Chmura	Will Brown
Mac Mansarah	Miranda Houston	Ryan Klaiber	Desiree D'Orlando	Bryan Davies
Will Nagy	Zach Pfaffenberger	Clay Robb	Kenna Petin	John El Jor
Nathan Bruch	Erin Mushisky	Beth Lasch	Kellan Nedwick	Zachary Taylor
	Austin Bancroft	Cooper Steinour		Andrew Webb
				Melissa Garcia-Hidalgo

We look forward to a even better program next year -please email me over the summer if you would like to be part of our planning team !

Thanks,

Catharine Anderson

Watkins Green Team, [greencatharine@gmail.com](mailto:greencatharine@gmail.com)



## Chess Club

Chess Club had its final tournaments last Friday. The winners this year were:

K-2 1st: Jake Bartholomew                      2nd: Andrew Baggett

3-5 1st: Paul Cavanah                              2nd: Andrew Steenkamer

We had a great year—come join us next year for the fun!!

Contact Becky Rose ([rdrvet@verizon.net](mailto:rdrvet@verizon.net)) or Anne Counoupas ([counoupas@gmail.com](mailto:counoupas@gmail.com)) with any questions.

## Help Your PTA and J.B. Watkins Over The Summer By...

- Collecting Boxtops for Education to send in for the fall collection
- Collect and enter codes for My Coke Rewards to get points that may be used by J.B. Watkins
- Thinking about how you can volunteer for the PTA in the next school year and COME JOIN US in September!!

**Have a great  
(and safe)  
summer!**



Do you have something you would like to have put in the next newsletter?

Submit items to Coalminer Editor

Beth Marshall

Email: [bmarshall@mcvh-vcu.edu](mailto:bmarshall@mcvh-vcu.edu)